U.S. Department of Justice



United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire

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MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release
December 21, 2004

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CITIZEN OF MEXICO SENTENCED FOR_ ILLEGAL RE-ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES

Contact:

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and Department of Homeland Security Special Agent in Charge of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") Boston Field Office Robin Avers, announced that Eduardo Garcia-Cecenas, a citizen of Mexico, was sentenced to 24 months in prison by United States District Court Judge Steven McAuliffe for illegally re-entering the United States after having been previously deported.

Garcia-Cenecas, age 36, was arrested last March by ICE Special Agents when he tried to register a car at the Merrimack, New Hampshire Department of Motor Vehicles office using a Mexican Voter Identification Card.

When he pleaded guilty to the offense in September, Garcia-Cecenas admitted that he received a 25-year suspended sentence and that he was deported to Mexico after he was convicted of a drug related offense in Iowa State Court in November 1996. He also acknowledged that he subsequently re-entered the United States without seeking or obtaining permission from the Attorney General of the United States.

Garcia-Cecenas is expected to be deported to Mexico, again, as soon as his prison term is completed.

After today's court hearing, U.S. Attorney Colantuono said, "Effective enforcement of the nation's criminal immigration laws is central to the missions of the Department of Homeland Security and the United States Attorney's Office. These cases and many others like them reflect our commitment to the vigilant enforcement of those laws."

This case was investigated by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the Department of Homeland Security, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bob Kinsella.